

Graduate Council Meeting Agenda
September 28, 2016
Commons Panorama
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

X	Jerry McMurtry – phone		Ben Hunter		Alistair Smith
	Ayobami Adegbite	X	Jill Johnson	X	Karen Trebitz
X	Julie Amador - phone	X	Scott Minnich	X	Greg Turner-Rahman
X	Jeff Bailey	X	Gordon Murdoch	X	Elowyn Yager – phone
X	Laura Holyoke – phone	X	Sandra Reineke	X	Ata Zadeghol
X	Jeanne Stevenson				

- I. Approval of the minutes from September 7, 2016
 - Turner-Rahman moved to approve. Seconded by Bailey.
 - Approved with two abstentions.

- II. Announcements and reports
 - A. Prestigious Fellowships Workshop #2
 - McMurtry reported that about 30 students will be applying for NSF Graduate Research Fellowships (GRFP) and/or Ford Foundation Fellowships.

- III. Discussion Items
 - A. Navitas Pathway Program
 - Stevenson gave a brief overview of the Navitas Pathway Program that was discussed at the last meeting. Since that meeting, much work has been done on the Navitas contract.
 - There is an interest in increasing enrollment of international graduate and undergraduate students.
 - McMurtry and Stevenson reminded the group the task for Graduate Council is to decide upon a minimum GPA (below 3.0) that they would feel comfortable allowing students to be admitted to UI through this pathway program. The student would have one year to attain a 3.0 cumulative GPA or be dismissed from UI. Students who use pathway programs typically lack language skills.
 - McMurtry explained that a consistent standard is difficult to uphold because international grading systems are all different.
 - Councilmembers discussed the program at length.
 - Why do we need this kind of program? Can't the students be admitted with a lower GPA via the petition process?
 - Pathway programs are to help groups of students, not one-offs.
 - Is it possible that students would come through Navitas with higher than a 3.0 GPA.
 - Yes, it is possible if the student is only needing language help.
 - Will increasing the international student body negatively impact courses or the institution by requiring instructors to focus more time/energy on students without sufficient language skills?
 - Navitas will help. They will give the students language training to minimize these issues.

- What about financial support of these students? Will UI have a financial obligation?
 - UI will have no financial obligation. These students will be in non-thesis/professional programs, so there will be no expectation of assistantships.
 - Who identified the programs in which these students will enroll? Several on the list are engineering programs; aren't their programs at capacity?
 - Possible programs were identified in early meetings. The Associate Dean for Research in Engineering has been consulted.
 - What is the cost to UI?
 - Students will pay Navitas, and the students will pay UI. We will share a percentage of the tuition revenue from these students with Navitas.
 - Is the main advantage of this to help students with language and cultural issues?
 - The students will also be in credit bearing courses. There will be added instruction to help with the language and cultural issues. Stevenson suggested that students would receive an extra hour of instruction at the end of a class each week for this.
 - Will the extra tutoring be available to other students?
 - No. This is only for Navitas students. There might be special sections of classes only for Navitas.
 - How will all of these pieces fit together – undergrad/grad?
 - It is an overarching contract for both.
 - What if a program is at/above capacity?
 - UI will work with Navitas to not over-subscribe admittance.
 - Is this for a fixed number of years?
 - 5 year contract which is renewable.
 - What is the metric of success?
 - Not yet sure. That information might be in the latest version of the contract (which hadn't been read as of the time of the meeting).
1. McMurtry reminded councilmembers of the task at hand. This topic was tabled at the last Graduate Council meeting and needs to be moved from the table. Councilmembers need to discuss and vote on the minimum GPA they will allow for students to be admitted to UI through the Navitas Pathway Program.
 - Murdoch moved remove the Navitas Pathway Program item from the table. Seconded by Bailey. Approved unanimously.
 2. More discussion occurred in an effort to decide upon an acceptable GPA for these students to be admitted.
 - Murdoch suggested being conservative with a 2.85 minimum GPA.
 - McMurtry cautioned Council from going too high because of the danger of not getting enough students. He stated at 2.75 GPA, UI would have one of the highest GPA requirements.
 - Are there other criteria besides GPA?
 - The GPA and whatever other requirements the departments set for the respective programs.
 - Does the department still decide who they will admit?
 - Yes.
 - Is it discriminatory to require international students to go through Navitas when another student might get in simply by petitioning?
 - Reineke suggested that lowering the GPA would widen the net to allow for more international students to get into graduate programs.
 - It was reiterated that these are non-thesis programs.

- Stevenson reminded the group that a 3.0 would be required to continue beyond the first year. McMurtry reiterated this protects us. The students are done if they do not get a 3.0.
 - McMurtry told the group that UI currently works with over 90 agents worldwide. This will streamline those efforts through one pathway program. Many of those 90+ agents already work with Navitas.
 - McMurtry said graduate programs need to be included in this contract to make UI more attractive to students.
 - Do councilmembers need to go to their departments and ask them what GPA's they want to accept?
 - No. This needs to be a UI-wide policy.
 - Would the department be required to admit the student into the program after the end of the first year?
 - The students are already admitted. They must be allowed to continue in the program after the first year if they are in good academic standing.
 - Can a student apply to several different programs through Navitas?
 - No. Navitas
 - Some members expressed discomfort with reducing the minimum GPA requirement. Is it possible to leave it at 3.0?
 - There would be no point to using Navitas. With a 3.0 GPA, the student would be a direct admit.
 - Could Graduate Council set the minimum at 2.75 and then each program set their own minimum GPA requirement if they want it to be higher?
 - No. We cannot have several different GPA requirements.
 - One member reminded the group that this could be a life-changing experience for international students.
 - McMurtry said the departments will tell Navitas how many students they will accept. He also said departments may choose not to participate in this program.
 - Johnson moved to accept students with a 2.75 GPA into the Navitas Pathway Program, assuming they achieve a 3.0 GPA in order to continue in the program beyond the first year.
 Seconded by Turner-Rahman.
 Approved with 2 abstentions.
3. McMurtry thanked councilmembers for their discussion and decision.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Future Meetings:

October 19

November 9

November 30

All are Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. (Pacific) in the Panorama